

- The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) is the State's lead agency for providing workforce development training. An educated and skilled workforce is one of the key attributes that attracts business location and investment in a certain area. The Customized Training Programs are the primary recipients of the funds allocated to NCCCS for economic development purposes.
- The Board of Governors for the University of North Carolina system (UNC) has made economic development one of its six strategic priorities. Although the State's total investment in education promotes economic development, the EDI highlights only those education programs that either directly benefit certain companies that the State seeks to attract or retain, or provide support to businesses through technical assistance and research. UNC has three statewide economic development support programs funded from General Fund appropriations: the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, the Industrial Extension Service, and the Small Business Technology Development Center.
- Transportation projects accounted for more than \$67 million of State spending on economic development in fiscal year 2006-2007. There is a close relationship between the strength of a region's transportation infrastructure and its economic development potential. The Department of Transportation has several programs explicitly created to encourage and support economic development.

The Committee solicited testimony from many different people representing various perspectives on economic development. All of the information gathered by the Committee may be accessed on its website.

- The speakers representing State, regional, and local government interests included the following: Jim Fain, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Commerce; Libby Smith, Staff to the N.C. Economic Development Board; Willa Dickins, Economic & Workforce Development, NCCCS; Leslie Boney, Economic Development, Research & Strategic Planning, UNC; Valeria Lee, Golden LEAF Foundation; Patrick Woodie, N.C. Rural Economic Development Center; Tony Almeida, Charlotte Regional Chamber; John Hauser, Wilkes Community College; Donny Hicks, Gaston County Economic Development Commission; Derwick Paige, Winston-Salem; Scott Sauer, Sampson County; and Bonnie Renfro, N.C. Economic Developer's Association.
- Bill Scheweke, Frank DiSilvestro, and Brian Taylor, researchers with the Center for Economic Development, presented their findings and recommendations concerning North Carolina's budget for economic development, local economic development incentives in North Carolina, and the effectiveness of North Carolina's current tax incentives to create jobs in disadvantaged and distressed areas of the State.
- Jonathan Morgan, an assistant professor in the UNC School of Government, summarized the types of incentives offered by local governments in North Carolina.
- Roby Sawyers, a professor at N.C. State University, provided the Committee an assessment of reducing the corporate tax rates as an alternative to statutory tax incentives.